

Writing Purpose

An author can write for different reasons. It is important for you to understand the author's purpose in a text. The following are different purposes an author may have in mind while writing.

- **Describe:** Some writing describes something or how to do something. For example, the directions that come with a cell phone have the purpose of describing how set up voice mail, check text messages, and so forth.
- **Inform:** Some writing has the purpose of informing. Most news articles in the newspaper are written to inform. A biography usually has the purpose of informing the reader about the person's life.
- **Persuade:** Some writing is written for the purpose of persuasion. A good example of persuasive writing is the writing found in advertisements. Advertisements are designed to persuade you to buy a certain product. Speeches by politicians are also examples of persuasive writing.
- **Narrate:** Narration has the purpose of telling a story. The narrator relates a series of events.
- **Entertain:** Some writing has the purpose of entertaining. The comic strips in the newspaper are there to entertain the readers with humor. A mystery novel and a fairy tale are also good examples of writing that have the purpose of entertaining.

Greek & Latin Roots

*You can often figure out the meaning of a new or unfamiliar word by breaking the word into smaller parts. Most English words are made up of word parts called roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Many of the most common **roots**, **prefixes**, and **suffixes** come from the Greek and Latin languages.*

Before you can use word parts to help you understand new words, you must first learn the meanings of different word parts. Here are some common ones:

Root	Meaning
-biblio-	book
-dict-	to say
-ped-	foot
-lingua-	language or the tongue
-lect-	choose or read
-phon-	sound
-port-	to carry
-log-	word
-magni-	large
-micro-	small
Prefix	Meaning
anti-	against
bi-	two
bio-	life
circum-	around

Root	Meaning
deca-	ten
dis-	not
im-	not
in-	not or without
mal-	poorly or badly
mis-	bad or wrong
non-	not
omni-	all or universally
post-	after
pre-	before
pseudo-	false
psych-	relating to the mind
re-	again
semi-	half
sub-	below or under
un-	not

Suffix	Meaning
-able	capable of
-al	relating to, of, or characterized by
-cracy	form of government
-dom	state, condition

Suffix	Meaning
-en	to become or made of
-ennial	years
-ful	full of
-hood	a group sharing characteristics or a condition
-ic	characterized by or related to
-ish	like or similar to
-ist	a specialist in a science, art, or skill
-less	without
-logy	the study of
-ly	in a way or manner
-ment	state of being
-ness	quality, state
-oid	resembling
-ous	full of or having the qualities of
-ward	in a direction

Hint: One good way to learn word parts is to memorize keywords for each word part. For example, memorize the keyword **preheat** for the prefix **pre-**. If you know that you preheat the oven before you bake something in it, you will remember the meaning of pre- when you think of the keyword preheat.

Example Question

Which of these words means "to say before?"

- A. predict
- B. premonition
- C. preview
- D. predecessor

Context Clues

*One key to being a good reader is being able to understand the words you read. Sometimes, you might not be able to understand some vocabulary words that the author uses. When this happens, it helps if you can at least understand the other words in the paragraph that you are reading. The information in the paragraph can be a clue to help you understand the words you don't know. This is called a **context clue**. Context clues are the words around the unknown word. It is also the information that makes up the rest of the paragraph.*

These are some things to look for when using context clues:

- Punctuation marks, such as a comma or a dash, may give you a clue about the unknown word.
 - *example:* Suzie found the painting **evocative** of an older style—like something she had seen in Diego Rivera's work.
- Key words, such as "or" and "that is," may give you a hint to the definition of an unfamiliar word.
 - *example:* The tar had a **pungency** to it, that is it smelled like a million dead birds covered in sewage.

Read the following passage, and answer the example questions.

The Most Amazing Orange



I once had the most exquisite orange I have ever tasted. It was more elegant than caviar and more **luscious** than velvet. The citrus flavor all at once lulled my taste buds into a blissful calm while throwing them into a frenzy of craving. I couldn't help but **devour** each and every bit within mere seconds as I crammed piece after piece of orange into my watering mouth. Ever since that one spectacular orange, I have never been satisfied with another. If only I had **savored** it or made it last a little longer.

1. What does the word **luscious** mean in the passage above?

- A. tart
- B. fluffy
- C. expensive
- D. rich

2. What does the word **devour** mean in the passage above?

- A. to eat hungrily
- B. to pick at
- C. to set aside
- D. to destroy

3. What does the word **savored** mean in the passage above?

- A. to season
- B. to smell
- C. to enjoy
- D. to study

Main Idea and Supporting Details

*The **main idea** of a passage is the idea that most of the passage covers. It is the basic point that the author wants to convey to the reader. In simpler terms, the main idea is the idea that the passage is mostly about. The sentences that explain, describe, or support the main idea are called **supporting details**.*

The **main idea** can range from an idea that the author wants the reader to agree with in a newspaper article to a main event that takes place in a story. Each passage you read, whether it is 5 sentences or 500 pages, has a main idea. When you are looking for the main idea, ask yourself:

- Why did the author write this passage?
- What is the point he/she is trying to make?
- What is the passage mostly about?
- What idea is conveyed in the passage?

Once you have found the main idea, check it against the passage. The sentences in the passage should support, describe, or explain this idea. These sentences are **supporting details**. They are used to make the author's main idea stronger. If the sentences do not support the main idea, then you have the wrong main idea. Look over the sentences again and see what point or idea they are trying to explain.

Note: Main idea and topic are not the same thing. A topic is a general category, like the paparazzi or global warming. A main idea is a specific idea about that topic, like "The paparazzi should not be allowed to follow celebrities in their cars," or "Global warming is

already impacting the North and South Poles." Think of it like a research paper assignment. Your teacher might want you to write about the 2008 presidential election. That is the topic. If you write about the confusion of the American public over the numerous candidates in the pre-primary election, that is the main idea.

Example:

- Once winter is gone and spring officially arrives, it is time to enjoy longer days, warm weather, and new seasonal produce. During the spring, many vegetables and fruits are at their peaks. This includes green beans, corn, sweet onions, peas, greens, and squash. On the fruit front, apples, citrus fruits, and pears have made way for juicy stone fruit, like peaches, nectarines, and plums. Melons and berries are also available in the spring.



What is the **main idea** of this passage?

Summarization

A **summary** is a shorter way to tell about the events or details of a passage. It includes only the most important details or events. A summary conveys what a passage is about to a reader. Look at this example of a summary of this passage on Asian elephants.

Asian Elephants

Asian elephants are an endangered species. These large animals have learned to adapt to their environment as it has changed over time. Today, they still shape their environment. Their foraging helps maintain the areas in which they live. They pull down trees to eat leaves, branches, and roots. This creates areas in which new young trees

and other plants grow, creating food for the elephants and other animals. The elephants also create trails through the brush. Other animals can use these paths. Termites eat elephant droppings and start termite mounds underneath the piles of droppings.

Today, the Asian elephants' forest homes are being destroyed. The demand for forest products is high. These products include coffee, tea, rubber, and hardwoods. Other industries, like crop farming and iron and ore mining have reduced the amount of land required by elephants for food supplies. Hydroelectric projects have created flooding, which also pushes back the land mass available to the Asian elephants. Only 35,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants survive today. They live in an inconsistent range in Southeast Asia.

Summary

The survival of the Asian elephant affects everything around it from termites to the forest in which they live. The destruction of their forest home threatens the Asian elephants' livelihood and the existence of other animals.

Inferences and Conclusions

*When you make **inferences** or draw **conclusions**, you make guesses about things not directly stated in the passage. You use details provided by the author along with what you know of real life to make conclusions and inferences. The author of a passage may not tell you everything directly. Some authors “show” something by using specific details. You should use details as clues to help you figure things out.*

Imagine that you are in a lobby of a building that does not have windows. You see people walking in with damp clothes. Some people are wiping water off their glasses. Some people have squeaky shoes that leave water footprints. You should know that it is raining outside even though no one has told you it is raining. You can just tell from the evidence around you.

Tips for Making Inferences



- Read a passage carefully.



- Look for details about what a person does. What do the person's actions tell you? What can you conclude about the person's traits?



- Look for details that describe a place or event. Based on real life, what do those details tell you?



- Look for facts given in a nonfiction passage. Ask yourself, what do those facts mean overall? What do the facts tell me about the subject?



- Analyze the way the author discusses and describes the topic. What can you tell about the author from his or her writing? How does the author probably feel about the topic?



- Make an inference or conclusion about something in the passage. Find the details that led you to that conclusion.

Example:



A Coffee Complication

"Just another morning," Lane grumbled to herself as she smacked the alarm clock until the buzzing noise finally quieted. With a heavy sigh, she pushed herself upright and stumbled out of bed. Lane was not a morning person, and she knew it. She had a set system of getting up that she managed to follow even in her zombie state. If nothing else, she could follow a routine.

She mumbled incoherently as she shuffled along the hallway. Lane slowly opened her eyes so that when she reached the kitchen, her eyes were almost fully open. As she reached for the coffee pot, Lane cocked her head to the side in confusion. It was empty. She shook the pot as if magically coffee would appear. Still nothing. She became more anxious as she began frantically checking for coffee, coming up with nothing. However would she survive a morning without coffee?

First, Lane looked to make sure the coffee maker was plugged in. Then, she checked to see that water was filled up to the four-cup line. Then she opened the top to see if there was a filter holding grounds. That, she noticed, was empty. She frantically searched each and every kitchen cabinet, but she couldn't find coffee. She sighed and ran through her options. There was a coffee shop a couple of blocks away, but it was in the opposite direction of school. She knew that would make her late for her first class, which would throw her off the rest of the day. The grocery store was on the way to school. Lane could stop by there and buy coffee filters and grounds to make coffee. But she would have to come back home to make it, and again that would make her late for school. Feeling hopeless, Lane wondered if she could convince one of her teachers to let her have some coffee

from the teacher's lounge. As quickly as the idea had come to mind, she dismissed it. Finally, Lane raced to get ready for school. If she worried over her lack of coffee any longer, she was going to be late anyway.	
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1. Based on her behavior, what can be inferred about Lane's character?

- A. Lane is disorganized.
- B. Lane is constantly alert.
- C. Lane likes structure.
- D. Lane is very laid back.

2. What can the reader infer will most likely happen next?

- A. Lane will go through the day without coffee.
- B. Lane will go to a coffee shop to buy a cup of coffee.
- C. Lane will run to the store to buy what she needs to make coffee.
- D. Lane will ask to go into the teacher's lounge to grab coffee.

Generalizations

*A **generalization** is a general rule drawn from looking at facts and figuring out what they have in common. In a generalization, a reasoning is formulated about something specific where some observations are made and then conclusions are drawn concerning the larger category of that specific instance. If a generalization is valid, it is well supported by facts, experience and logic. If a generalization is invalid, it is not supported.*

Examples

- *All the ducks we've seen have feathers. Therefore, it is likely that all ducks have feathers.*

. What is the difference between "fiction" and "nonfiction"?

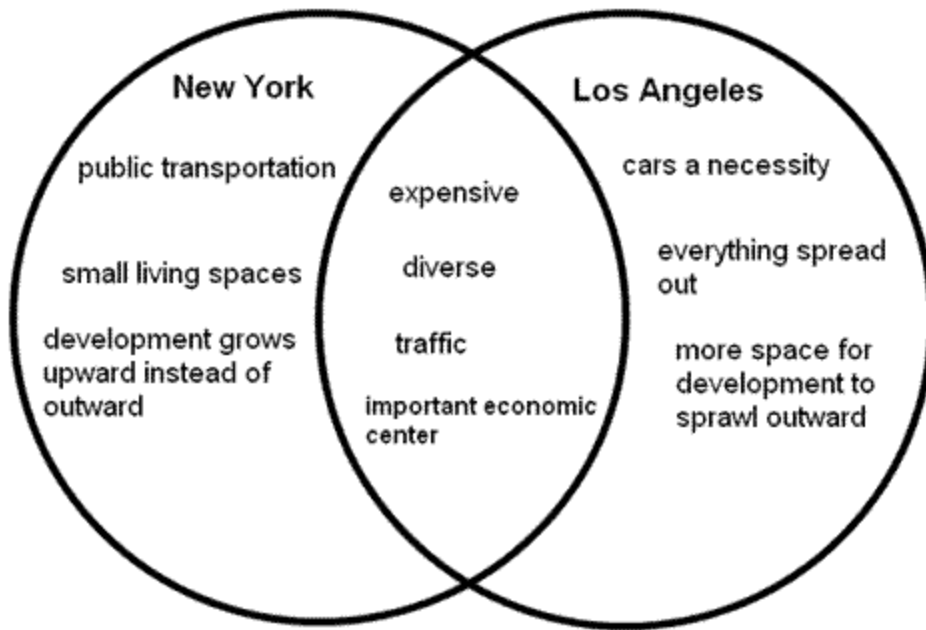
- “Fiction” refers to literature created from the imagination. Mysteries, science fiction, romance, fantasy, chick lit, crime thrillers are all fiction genres. Examples of classic fiction include *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, *1984* by George Orwell and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Our Fiction Department also has a large selection of popular movies and television shows on DVD.

“Nonfiction” refers to literature based in fact. It is the broadest category of literature. The Nonfiction Department has books and videos in many categories including biography, business, cooking, health and fitness, pets, crafts, home decorating, languages, travel, home improvement, religion, art and music, history, self-help, true crime, science and humor. We also have a section of popular and award-winning documentary DVDs.

Compare and Contrast Passages

Compare and contrast is a concept that is used to examine information in order to show the similarities and differences between two or more thoughts or ideas. It is important to be able to see the similarities and differences between items and ideas within a passage and between multiple passages.

Compare and contrast organization can show the relationships between items, people, or ideas. Look at this Venn diagram to get a visual picture of what comparing and contrasting looks like.



Compare = similarities

Look for words like the following:

- similar
- in the same way
- likewise
- just like
- as well
- in addition

Contrast = differences

Look for words like the following:

- different
- in contrast
- on the other hand

- however
- on the contrary
- instead
- although
- but

When you have to compare passages you have to use your comprehension skills to show that you can compare and contrast the information presented in more than one text. Look for similarities and differences in the following:

- main idea
- point of view
- purpose
- characters
- setting
- problems/conflict
- themes

Example:

Life on the Bayou



Passage 1

Riding my bike on the bayou with my father was one of my favorite pastimes growing up. Those memories are probably the most unforgettable ones I have. We were inseparable then. The bayou was our special place. The concrete trails surrounded by deep dark bayou water and the lush green foliage were like a second home to me. When I have children, I would like to move back there and share those experiences with them.

Passage 2

Our hometown of Houston, Texas, is also known as the Bayou City to its inhabitants. There are more than 2,500 miles of waterways located here. The Bayou Preservation Association is a group of citizens who have made it their mission to protect and preserve these beautiful waterways. We spread public awareness about the streams and promote conservation. BPA believes the concrete bayous most Houstonians know and love destroyed animal habitats and countless trees. We hold town meetings, review policy, and plant trees. All of our work is done in the name of saving the bayou for our children's children to enjoy.

1. nar-ra-tive

'narətiv/

noun

noun: **narrative**; plural noun: **narratives**

1. 1.

a spoken or written account of connected events; a story.

po-et-ry

☒ Show Spelled [poh-i-tree] Show IPA

noun

1.

the [art](#) of rhythmical composition, written or spoken, for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts.

2.

literary work in metrical form; verse.

dra-ma

'drämə/

noun

noun: **drama**; plural noun: **dramas**

1. 1. a play for theater, radio, or television

Character Analysis

*You can understand stories better when you understand characters. This is called **character analysis**. When you analyze characters, think about the following items.*

Trait:

a special quality or something special about someone's personality.

examples:

- hair color, eye color, height, weight, age, beliefs, likes, dislikes, opinions, behavior
- "Jenny's relatives thought she was shy, but her friends knew that she was outgoing and just liked to spend lots of time reading."



Motivation:

what causes someone to act in a certain way. It can be an emotion, desire, need, etc. A motivation is the reason we do something.

examples:

- "Tripping over his untied shoes, Maurelio dragged himself to the coffee machine because he was desperate to wake up."
- "Susan was unclear about the instructions for the assignment, so she emailed Mrs. Reed last night."

- "Ron delivers pizza on the weekends because he needs to raise money to pay for his college tuition."



Conflict:

when characters have different interests or goals.

examples:

- "With tears in her eyes, Jessica angrily asked Nico why he didn't return her phone calls. Nico looked away and replied that he didn't want to be her friend anymore."
- "When they stayed over at their grandmother's house, Joshua and Peter had an argument about who would sleep on the top bunk."
- "Ben told the cashier that he didn't agree with how much money the store charged for CDs. The cashier told Ben that he needed to pay the money, anyway."



Point of View:

the side from which a story is told. It can affect how facts are shown and how we look at the characters.

examples:

- "My name is Kevin, and I'm a trustworthy person. Would you believe me if I told you that I'm from the Planet Xnychon?"
- "Brenda was telling people at the office that Timothy had been calling her names behind her back. Their boss Mr. Fairfield told Timothy that he needed to get Timothy's side of the story."



Relationships:

the connection of people in friendship, family, work, school, or other activities.

examples:

- mother, sister, friend, teacher, neighbor, father, boss, etc.
- "One nice thing about going to the same school as your sister is getting to share her lunch when you forget yours."



Think about how all these character traits affect the story. A character's traits or relationships might affect his or her point of view. Motivation affects action and changes. When we understand all of these things, a character becomes easy to understand. When writing your own characters, think about all these things. You'll be on your way to making an interesting and deep character.

Character

You can learn a lot about characters through their actions and dialogue.

Action

Pay attention to what the characters do to figure out what they are like.

example:

- Charlie stuck his foot out to trip Bridget as she walked by. He laughed when she dropped her books and fell on the floor.

Dialogue

Pay attention to what the characters say to figure out what they are like.

example:

- "I guess I don't have enough money," Amanda said to the cashier.
- "I can give you some money," Lindy said from behind her in line. "How much do you need?"

In the example, Lindy's dialogue shows that she is kind and wants to help other people.

Setting

Setting is the time, place, and circumstances in which a story takes place. It tells the reader where and when the story occurs.



The main components of setting include . . .

- place (geographical location)
- time
- weather
- social conditions
- mood (atmosphere)

When analyzing setting, remember . . .

The setting of a story is not always directly stated. Sometimes you have to use clues to recognize the setting. Below are some examples of sentences that would give the reader clues about the setting.

- "I closed my eyes and listened to the waves brushing back and forth across the wet sand."
- "Armand felt dizzy as he looked over the railing of the Eiffel Tower."
- "No matter what, I am determined to stay awake to see the first man walk on the Moon."

Authors take great care when choosing settings for their stories. The setting can have an effect on the reader by mirroring the mood or theme.

- Stories about loss or death often take place in winter.
- Suspenseful or scary stories often take place in dark, secluded places.
- Futuristic stories often take place in outer space or on another planet.

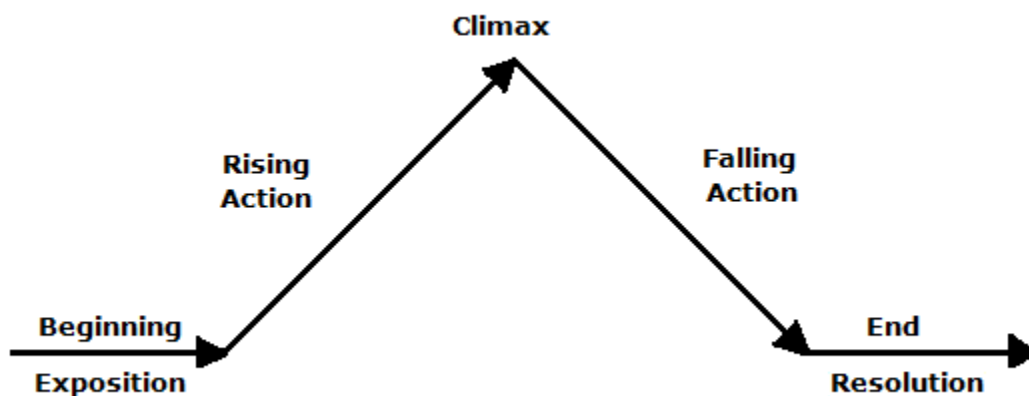
In some stories, the setting can have an effect on the characters or conflict.

- The setting is part of the conflict when a character becomes shipwrecked on a desert island.
- The setting affects characters when a historic event such as a war changes their lives.

- The setting also influences the characters when they travel to a place that is foreign to them and must learn new customs.

Plot Elements

*The main events of a story are called the **plot**. Plot is also the order of the events. The plots of most stories have five common parts: the exposition, the rising action, the climax, the falling action, and the resolution.*



Exposition

This is the beginning of the plot. It starts off the story and lets the reader know any important information before the action starts. It introduces the characters, the setting, and the basic conflict of a story. A conflict is a problem or obstacle that the characters must overcome.

Rising Action

This occurs after the main conflict is introduced. It includes details about what the character does to solve his or her problem. Smaller problems, obstacles, or crises may occur before the climax is reached.

Climax

This occurs right after the rising action. It is the most intense or exciting event in the story because the character deals with the main conflict for the last time. It is also the turning point in the story. After the climax, things either get better or worse for the character.

Falling Action

This occurs after the climax and before the resolution. It is everything that happens because of the climax. The characters respond to what happens in the climax. This leads the reader to the conclusion of the story.

Resolution or Epilogue

This is the conclusion of the story. It ties together the whole story. It explains how the conflict is resolved and what happens to the characters after the story ends.

example:

From Depth to Depth

by Memory Stay

Exposition

A violent creature called Antiluz tormented the island of Belmar for many decades. Belmar was a small island in the Mediterranean Sea. Only a few hundred people lived there. Antiluz would lay dormant beneath the earth for years and then wake up and destroy everything in his path. No one knew when Antiluz would strike again or how long his attacks would last. And no one knew how to get rid of the wretched beast.

Jaman grew up hearing stories of Antiluz. Jaman's grandfather showed him the long scar on his back where the monster had hit him with his sharp spine-ridged tail. The monster had not attacked the island during Jaman's lifetime of 16 years. The older people in Jaman's village expected Antiluz to burst out of the ground on

<p>a rampage at any moment. They said that a loud rumbling and a shaking of the ground would signal the creature's return. Jaman was determined to rid Belmar of Antiluz for good. Jaman researched all of the recorded history about Antiluz. He learned that the beast seemed to understand spoken language, but only communicated with roars, grunts, and growls. Jaman also read that Antiluz loved to knock down large structures and was known to avoid water. Armed with this knowledge, Jaman devised a plan.</p>	
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Rising Action

<p>One day as Jaman was walking home from the market, he heard a deep rumble. Then, Jaman felt the ground shaking, and he knew that Antiluz was coming towards him. Jaman faced the great beast as it rose from the deep, dark bowels of the earth. The earth shuddered and shook. As the creature broke through the surface, the land tore apart, streets crumbled, and buildings collapsed. Jaman was buried in a pile of rubble. But that was not enough to keep the mighty Jaman down. He crawled from the pile of bricks and broken boards and stood on his feet. Jaman called to the beast, "You will not defeat me!"</p> <p>The monster opened its terrible jaws, showed its razor-sharp teeth, and roared a ground-shaking roar at Jaman. Then, the giant beast turned and knocked down more buildings. Those who could ran out of the rubble screaming in terror. Jaman ran to a parked police car and asked the officer if he could use the car's loudspeaker.</p> <p>"Do whatever you want," the frightened officer said.</p> <p>"Antiluz, I have a challenge for you!" Jaman yelled into the loudspeaker.</p> <p>The beast stopped and turned towards the sound of Jaman's voice.</p> <p>"I believe there is a tower that is too strong for you to knock down," Jaman continued, "Follow me, and I will show you the tower. If you succeed in knocking it down, all of the human inhabitants will leave this island forever. But if you fail,</p>	
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	<p>you must leave and never return."</p> <p>The people on the street gasped, but did not protest. Antiluz let out a series of grunts that resembled laughter. Then, Jaman asked the police officer to drive him to Cascadia Point.</p> <p>"I hope you know what you're doing, Jaman. This seems crazy!" The officer said.</p> <p>"I promise you, I have a good plan," Jaman replied.</p> <p>The officer turned on the flashing lights and sirens and drove to Cascadia Point. Antiluz left deep craters in the road as he stomped along behind the car.</p> <p>Belmar's ancient lighthouse stood way out on Cascadia Point overlooking the deep, blue sea. It was a beautiful tower carved out of the golden brown cliff.</p> <p>Jaman silently prayed that his plan would work.</p> <p>"There it is, Antiluz. There is the tower that will withstand all of your force. If I were you, I would leave now while I still have a little respect," Jaman taunted.</p>	
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Climax

	<p>Antiluz gave a great roar and ran towards the tower with all of his might. The beast collided with the tower, and it gave way with a terrible crack. The tower fell forward, over the edge of the cliff. Antiluz's momentum sent him over the side of the cliff, too. The evil creature hit the water with a gigantic splash.</p>	
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Falling Action

	<p>Waves shot up into the sky. Jaman and the officer walked to the edge of the cliff and studied the water. When the waves finally subsided, there was no sign of Antiluz. He had sunk to the bottom of the ocean, never to be seen or heard from again.</p>	
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Resolution/Epilogue

The people of Belmar cried tears of grief for the loss of their ancient lighthouse and tears of joy for the triumph over Antiluz. They crowned Jaman their king. King Jaman declared a national holiday to celebrate the victory over Antiluz. King Jaman ruled the island with fairness, kindness, and courage. The people of Belmar rebuilt their towns and lived in peace and harmony.

Plot

Plot is the storyline or sequence of events that take place in a story. It is what happens in a story. All fictional stories have a plot, and all plots have a conflict and a resolution. **Conflict** is the opposition between characters or forces that shapes or motivates the action of the plot. The **resolution** is how the conflict is solved and brought to an end.

Sample Story



Sweating profusely, Jerry was still trying to overcome his shock on winning the scholarship. He shouldn't even be at this banquet in the first place. The banquet was for finalists, not cheaters.

He'd only entered the scholarship contest for extra credit. He'd needed the extra points to make a B in English. Another C on his report card would have made him grounded for another three weeks. No way was he going to let that happen.

So he had paid his friend Lenny to write the essay for him. Lenny needed the money, and he hated to write. It was a win-win situation. He didn't know that Lenny was going to make a huge mistake. How could Lenny mix up his own submission with the paper he

wrote for Jerry? How could he give Jerry the better paper to turn in?

Lenny should be here, not me! Jerry wanted to cry out. He should've just written his own paper. It wasn't that hard of an assignment.

The other guests were enjoying themselves, conversing with their neighbors and relishing their meal, a mouthwatering plate full of steak and potatoes. But Jerry's plate remained untouched. Sick to his stomach, he felt like he was going to be found out at any moment, like the word "CHEATER" was stamped on his forehead. He smiled feebly as one person after another came up to congratulate him.

The guilt was driving him nuts. Excusing himself, Jerry finally got up and left the banquet hall. He couldn't take the charade any longer. He needed to tell someone the truth. One way or another, Lenny was going to get this scholarship.

Sample Questions

1. What is a major **conflict** in this selection?
2. What is a **resolution** to Jerry's conflict?
3. Why did Jerry enter the scholarship contest?

Theme

A **theme** is a central or recurring idea that is explored in a piece of writing, sometimes in the form of a life lesson or moral. A theme can also be described as a message that makes the reader think about life, human nature, or the world. The theme is not usually stated in a single sentence. Instead, the reader must determine the theme by extracting it from the events that occur in a story. Recognizing a theme is important because it helps the reader understand the meaning of a story.

Some Common Themes Found in Literature:

- Man is man's worst enemy.
- Good is stronger than evil.
- A person grows by facing obstacles.
- Enjoy life
- Love conquers all.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Notice that the themes aren't describing particular events or characters. They are broad ideas that can apply to all people.

example:

The Wolf and the Goat

by Aesop



A wolf saw a goat grazing at the edge of a high cliff. The wolf smacked his lips at the thought of a fine goat dinner.

"My dear friend," said the wolf in his sweetest voice, "aren't you afraid you will fall down from that cliff? Come down here and graze on this fine grass beside me on safe, level ground."

"No, thank you," said the goat.

"Well, then," said the wolf, "aren't you cold up there in the wind? You would be warmer grazing down here beside me in this sheltered area."

"No, thank you," said the goat.

"But the grass tastes better down here!" said the exasperated wolf. "Why dine alone?"

"My dear wolf," the goat finally said, "are you quite sure that it is MY dinner you are worrying about and not your own?"

Question: Which of the following **best** describes a theme of the passage?

- A. You can't change who you are.
- B. Honesty is not always the best policy.
- C. Be cautious if an enemy is being kind.
- D. A good friend is hard to find.

Tips for Identifying Theme:

- Look closely at the title. Sometimes you will find a clue about the theme.
- Look for ideas that are repeated more than once.
- Look for lessons that the character learns.
- Think about what happens in the story and how it can apply to life. For example, if the main character must survive an approaching tornado, the theme may be, "Nature is at war with mankind."

Tone and Mood

Tone is the reflection of an author's attitude toward his or her subject.

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone, and you were able to tell if that person was angry, sad, or happy? Usually, the person talking to you will give hints about how he or she is feeling with gestures like a frown, a smile, or a nervous twitch.



Authors give the similar hints when they write. An author's **tone** gives the reader an idea about how the author feels about a certain subject. They aren't hints that can be seen like the hints in a conversation; however, things like word choice and attitude can be recognized in writing. For example, pay close attention to the author's tone in the passage below:

<p>The school's decision to add four more vending machines shows that it thinks the health of its students is unimportant. Instead of working to make needed changes, like adding better computers to the school, it decided that students need sugar, caffeine, fat, and empty calories instead. It is ridiculous! What kind of message does it send to the students? We are taught in our health classes to avoid sugary, fatty foods, but now, students have four more chances to swell up on junk food. The so-called food sold in these vending machines will make the student body grow, but it will be measured in pounds.</p>

The author's tone in this passage is _____. He or she has a problem with the school's new vending machines filled with junk food. Think about how the author uses language to show his or her _____ about the school adding new vending machines:

Make a list of words and phrases that shows the author's mood

Mood is the atmosphere that a writer creates for a reader that plays on the reader's imagination and emotion through the use of descriptive adverbs or adjectives.

Can you recall a time in life when you were scared? What were the events taking place around you that scared you? What made things scary for you? How would you describe that feeling to someone else? Writers use descriptions of a situation to create mood. For example, pay attention to the mood in the passage below:

<p>I rose from bed with a noise ringing in my ears so loudly that I almost lost my balance. The noise sounded like the screeching moan of claws being drug against glass. The sharp, squeaking sound cut through the darkness of the night and woke me from my dream. My first thought was that a bear was trying to get inside of the cabin, but a bear's claws would have shattered the glass. As I happened on the window, the full moon shined against whatever was making the noise from behind, like a giant spotlight. I saw behind the curtain the shape of something tall and lanky with long arms reaching out to the window. I immediately yanked the curtain aside as a long squeal bleated out against the window pane. Filling the pane outside was a dying willow—its branches pushing against the glass with a gust from the winds outside.</p>

The author of this passage uses several descriptions to create a scary mood. Think about how the author's language creates a scary mood:

Make a list of words and phrases that help create the mood.

First person point of view is a point of view in which an "I" or "we" serves as the narrator of a piece of fiction. The narrator may be a minor character, observing the action, as the character Nick does in *The Great Gatsby*.

The third person point of view is a form of storytelling in which a narrator relates all action in third person, using third person pronouns such as "he" or "she." Third person point of view may be [omniscient](#) or [limited](#).

Genres

***Genre** is a French word that means "type" or "kind." When we talk about genres of writing, we are talking about the different types of writing such as fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Each of these broad categories has multiple forms within it. For example, biography and autobiography are both kinds of nonfiction. Below are some of the main characteristics, or features, of different literary genres.*

Fiction is the class of literature made up of works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact. Fiction consists of narration invented by the imagination. It is usually told in prose form, the ordinary language people use in everyday speaking or writing that does not use the meter or rhyme characteristic of poetry or verse. Common types of fiction include novels and short stories.

- A **novel** is a fictional piece of writing usually of considerable length, typically having a plot that is unfolded by the actions, speech, and thoughts of the characters.
- A **short story** is a fictional prose narrative that is shorter and less complex than other pieces, usually under 10,000 words.

Nonfiction is a literary work in which the content is based on fact. Nonfiction writing is not made up or imaginary. In other words, it is not fiction. There are many kinds of nonfiction writing, including biographies, autobiographies, diaries and journals, essays, reviews, speeches, and newspaper articles.

- A **biography** is an account of a person's life written, composed, or produced by another person. A biography is written by someone other than the person whose life is being described. Many famous people have biographies written about them that tell their life story. If you were to write a book about the life of George Washington, you would be writing a biography.
- An **autobiography** is a piece of writing that a person writes about his or her own life. Autobiographies are written in the first person using the pronouns "I," "me," "us," and "we." If you were to write about your summer vacation, that work would be autobiographical.
- A **diary** is a written account of events or circumstances in a person's life where each entry is dated. A **journal** is similar to a diary in that it includes a dated record of daily events. Both diaries and journals may include a person's thoughts and feelings about the events that are recorded. The difference is that a journal is more likely to be a continuous log of each day's events, whereas a diary is not used everyday.
- An **essay** is a relatively short literary composition in prose on a single subject, usually presenting the personal view of the author. The writer discusses a topic, often restricted in scope, or tries to persuade the reader to accept a particular point of view.

- A **newspaper article** gives information about current events that happen locally or around the world. Newspapers are published every day.

Poetry is a type of writing designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way. Poems are characterized by literary techniques such as rhyme and rhythm. Poetry is usually (but not always) written in short lines, and the lines often rhyme. A poem may tell a story, create images, or just share a feeling or thought.

Technical documents provide directions to do something. These documents—such as manuals and applications—are not used for entertainment but for practical purposes. For example, a college application instructs a student how to provide information needed on the form.

Cross-genre refers to a work that has characteristics of more than one genre. With the development of different artistic movements over time, artists and authors have often played with the boundaries of genres. For example, some poems may read like a cross between a story and a biography.

Development of Genres

Genres have changed with time and movements in art and literature. Many modern poems are not written in strict meter and form. New genres such as flash fiction (fiction that can be read out loud under five minutes), concrete poetry (poems that are visually arranged to represent a shape and to add meaning to the written words) have developed to suit the busy lives of today's readers. However, short stories, novels, lyric poetry, and biographies are still composed and widely read today.

Allegory

Allegory is a form of extended metaphor in which all of the elements of the story have meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. In other words, the story is symbolic of another story. The underlying meaning has moral, social, religious, or political significance, and characters are often personifications of abstract ideas as charity, greed, or envy.

Published in 1678, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan is among the most famous allegories of all time. The allegory tells of Christian, an everyman character, who makes his way from the "City of Destruction" (Earth) to the "Celestial City" (Heaven) of Zion. The story features such characters as Envy, Piety, and Charity.

Other famous allegories include Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, William Langland's *Piers Plowman*, and Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*.

Star Wars, *The Matrix*, and *The Wizard of Oz* are all films considered to be allegorical. Think about these films. What about the stories seem symbolic? What makes you think they might be allegories?

Allusion

An **allusion** is a reference to a real or fictitious person, event, place, work of art, or another work of literature within writing.

In order for an allusion to be effective, the reader must be familiar with the original work. In the example below, the reader must be familiar with *A Christmas Carol* or the character of Ebenezer Scrooge.

example:

- My father showed he is a **Scrooge** because he would not lend me money to pay my medical bills.

People who recognize Ebenezer Scrooge as a mean and stingy man know what the author means by this statement.

You can commonly find allusions to well-known works:

examples:

- Roman/Greek mythology
- the Bible
- Shakespearean plays
- fairy tales

Common Allusions

Allusion	Literary Work	Meaning
David and Goliath	Bible	battle against strong odds
Romeo and Juliet	Shakespeare	doomed love affair
Mercury	Roman mythology	god of trickery/a messenger
Armageddon	Bible	battle of good versus evil
Cinderella	Fairy tale	a person treated unfairly
Ceres	Roman mythology	goddess of the harvest
Odyssey	Greek epic poem <i>The</i>	long and unpredictable trip

Allusion	Literary Work	Meaning
	<i>Odyssey</i>	
Garden of Eden	Bible	Biblical home of the first two people, Adam and Eve/ a perfect place
Trojan horse	Greek mythology	disguise used to fool an enemy
Sleeping Beauty	Fairy tale	a person who sleeps
Mars	Roman mythology	god of war
Good Samaritan	Bible	a person who unselfishly helps another
Cupid's arrow	Roman mythology	a person struck by love

Note: Sometimes, it is easy to recognize that an author is using an allusion but difficult to tell what literary work the allusion is drawn from. If you cannot recognize the allusion, first check a reference source for the allusion. If you do not have access to a reference source, look at the passage closely for context clues. You may be able to discover the author's meaning first from the passage and research the allusion later.

Dialect

Dialect is the language of a particular region or group of people. It includes the sound, spelling, and diction used by that group. Writers often use dialect to show a distinction between different characters, to refer to a specific location or time period, or to help the reader hear how a character sounds. Dialect is considered informal language and is usually inappropriate in formal writing, such as a business letter.

example:

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luv am I;
And I will luv thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

from "A Red, Red Rose" by Robert Burns

This excerpt includes dialect that identifies with the Scottish language. Notice that "luve" refers to "love," "a' " refers to "all," and "gang" refers to "going."

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which the author uses exaggeration for emphasis or effect. It is not meant to be taken literally.

Hyperbole in Literature

"[Father Mapple] paused a little; then kneeling in the pulpit's bows, folded his large brown hands across his chest, uplifted his closed eyes, and *offered a prayer so deeply devout that he seemed kneeling and praying at the bottom of the sea.*"

—Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

In this excerpt, Melville attempts to explain how deeply Father Mapple prayed. To do this, Melville exaggerates by saying that Father Mapple offers a prayer so devout that it brought him into the depths of the sea.

Hyperbole in Poetry

Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Concord Hymn"

Obviously, it is impossible to hear a single shot around the entire world, but Emerson wants the reader to understand the importance of the first battle of the American Revolution. He uses hyperbole for emphasis.

Hyperbole in Everyday Conversation



It took an eternity for her to return my call.

The phone call did not really take an eternity to be returned, but the author wants to convey to the reader that it felt like time was dragging by for her. Someone might also say, "I've been waiting here for ages."

The following are more examples of hyperbole:

- I think of you a million times a day.

- She nearly drowned in her tears.
- Her beauty eclipsed the sun.

Tip: Hyperbole is sometimes called **overstatement**. This little tidbit of information can help you remember what hyperbole is because **overstatement** is an **antonym** of **understatement**.

Forms of Irony

Irony is used to express the exact opposite of its literal meaning. It is the difference between what appears to be and what actually is. There are three main types of irony: **situational irony**, **dramatic irony**, and **verbal irony**.

Situational irony occurs when a reader or character expects one thing to happen, but something entirely different happens. In other words, it is when something unexpected (or inappropriate) happens. Writers use situational irony to make their stories interesting or humorous and sometimes to force their readers to think about their own thoughts and values.

Example:



- Situational irony would occur if a cunning and lawful police officer fails to catch a reckless and lawless thief. This is unexpected because in most works of film and literature, good is supposed to conquer evil. The police officer should be able to catch the thief because he is smart and good whereas the thief is foolish and rotten.

Dramatic irony is the contrast between what a character thinks to be true and what we (the readers) know to be true. It occurs when the meaning intended by a character's

words or actions is opposite of the true situation. The character cannot see or understand the contrast, but the audience or reader can.

Example:

- In Shakespeare's play *Othello*, Othello mistakenly believes that Iago is telling him the truth when he says that Othello's wife has been unfaithful. Othello calls him, "honest Iago." This is an occurrence of dramatic irony because Shakespeare reveals to the reader Iago's dishonesty beforehand. The reader knows that the statement "honest Iago" is false, but Othello, the character, believes it to be true.

Verbal irony is when someone says one thing but means something different. This type of irony is very similar to sarcasm.

Example:



"Are you doing anything fun tomorrow, Carol?" Janet asked.

"Nothing except getting my wisdom teeth pulled out!" Carol replied with a fake smile.

Carol's remark is an example of verbal irony. She doesn't really think getting her wisdom teeth pulled out is fun. Her intended meaning is the exact opposite of what she is saying.

Simile and Metaphor

Similes and **metaphors** are types of figurative language used to compare and contrast different objects or ideas. At their most basic level, a simile and a metaphor can be classified as an analogy, which is a comparison that shows similarity between things that might seem different.

Simile

A **simile** compares things that share a common feature. This type of comparison uses either "like" or "as" to make the connection.

examples:

- Francis had skin **AS** thin **AS** rice paper. You couldn't tell him anything without offending him.

Francis doesn't really have rice paper skin, but to compare his skin to rice paper means that things affect him easily. Think about how thin rice paper is. It is very fragile. The same thing can be said about Francis' feelings. He is easily offended.

- Stacy's laugh was **LIKE** a pin being pushed into your thumb.

Stacy's laugh isn't a pin, but for the author, the sound of Stacy's laugh is as painful as having a pin being pushed into one's thumb.

Metaphor

A **metaphor** also compares two things, but it does so more directly WITHOUT using "like" or "as."

example:

- The crowd was a blanket of boos smothering Tony Wonder as he performed his latest magic trick.

A crowd cannot really be a blanket, but an entire crowd booing someone may feel like a smothering blanket to a bad performer like the one mentioned above.

Satire

Satire is a literary work in which the writer tries to point out human vices or follies in order to scorn or ridicule them. The writer can do so by using irony, wit, or sarcasm.

Satire is a verbal or visual mode of expression that uses ridicule to diminish its subject in the eyes of its audience. The authors are intent on making fun of the absurdity, pretension, and corruption of the respective worlds they are portraying. A very common, almost defining, feature of satire is its strong element of irony or sarcasm. Satire involves the fusion of laughter and contempt.

examples:

- Look in your newspaper at the political cartoons. Many times, these cartoons find a funny way to represent a problem or issue in politics or society.
- Have you ever seen shows on TV that have actors dress up as different political figures? These shows use skits to point out the flaws of people in the news.
- Have you ever seen a movie that makes fun of other movies? It may use recognizable scenes or characters from a well-known movie to make fun of that movie.

• Symbolism

- *We use symbols every day when we communicate. Signs on the street use symbols to tell you where to go, and your school mascot serves as a symbol of school pride and spirit. In other words, symbols represent big ideas and concepts. Writers employ symbolism for this same reason. By using symbols to represent larger ideas in the story, the writer adds more depth and interest to his or her writing.*
- **Symbolism** is a literary device that uses certain objects or images to represent other ideas. A symbol is usually something tangible or visible (something you can touch or feel), but the idea it symbolizes may be something abstract or universal (love, hate, worry). For example, a caged bird could be used as a symbol to mean imprisonment (depending on how the writer uses the symbol).



-
- For example, a red rose is a symbol of romantic love. An author could use this symbol to describe different stages in the relationship of his or her characters. A budding rose would show the start of a relationship. The thorns of the rose could

represent conflict or strife between the characters. The soft petals could refer to the tenderness shared by the couple. If the relationship does not endure, a withered rose could be used to describe the end of the relationship.

Flashback & Foreshadowing

*To develop the time and sequence of a story, authors can use several literary devices. **Flashback** and **foreshadowing** are two commonly employed techniques.*

Flashback

A flashback interrupts the plot of a story and goes back to a past event. When a story is told in flashbacks, it is usually done to show how something or someone was before the story took place. In the passage below, the flashback example is in blue.

The scent of brand-new leather at the shoe department at Frugalman's Store wafted through the air. Mrs. Bynaville found it difficult to resist the allure. She had just received her bonus at work, and she was able to spend a few extra dollars. Easing her right foot into a black patent-leather high-heeled shoe that was on display, Mrs. Bynaville was reminded of a time when she was shopping for shoes in her childhood.

When she was eight years old, Mrs. Bynaville's father took her to a secondhand clothing store to buy shoes. The section of shoes for little girls was two small shelves full of tattered, stained footwear. "I don't like these, Daddy," she said.

"I'm sorry, sweetie," her father began, "but this is the only place where we can buy shoes that we can afford."

Slowly, the eight-year-old Mrs. Bynaville reached for a pair of white leather shoes. She held the shoes up to the light, which revealed brown stains near the heels and toe areas. "Does this store have shoes that are shiny?" she asked.

Now at Frugelman's Store, Mrs. Bynaville decided that she liked how the black shoe caught the light. "It's so shiny!" she exclaimed. She felt herself blush a little bit when the salesgirl turned to look at her.

"I'm sorry, ma'am," Mrs. Bynaville told the girl. With a smile, Mrs. Bynaville explained, "I think I just found the shoes of my dreams."

Foreshadowing

Foreshadowing is a technique where future events in a story, or sometimes the outcome, are suggested or hinted at by the author before they happen. Foreshadowing is a method used to build suspense by providing hints of what is to come. In the passage below, the foreshadowing examples are in red.

Jesse dizzily trudged into Kowwrap Burgers. He groaned to see how long the line was because he was so hungry that he thought his empty stomach would eat him from the inside out. *I wish that I had a set of wings so that I could fly to the front of the line and order my food before everyone else*, Jesse thought. *Yep, some wings would definitely come in handy right now.*

Jesse's thoughts turned to the lunch he ate at Imelda's Taco Stand the other day. **He had made the mistake of ordering the Taquito de Fuego, which was a very spicy taco.** He had arrived back at work sweating from the spiciness that would remain in his mouth throughout the afternoon. After drinking three bottles of water, he had wished that he had gone to Marvelburger that day for lunch instead.

After his mind wandered for a few more minutes, Jesse found himself at the front of Kowwrap Burgers' line. "I'll have a number four, please," **he said without thinking about it.** He paid for his meal, grabbed his lunch tray, and maneuvered through the crowd to an empty table.

Jesse stuffed a few french fries into his mouth while he unwrapped **what he thought was a double-patty burger.** He took a big bite and discovered in horror that he had

ordered an extra-spicy chicken sandwich. Gulping down his soda, he suddenly realized that the double-patty burger he intended to order was actually Marvelburger's number four. Tears trickled down his cheeks as he groaned. *Now I need some wings to get me out of here*, Jesse thought. *I really should start packing my own lunch instead of eating out.*

Poetry

A poem is a type of writing designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way. Poems are characterized by literary techniques such as meter and rhyme and often use language, meaning, sound, and rhythm to evoke a specific response. Poems can be categorized into various poetic forms based on their characteristics.

A **ballad** is a poem that tells a story. It is often of folk origin and intended to be sung. Ballads often consist of simple stanzas and usually have a refrain (a repeated phrase or stanza).

A **stanza** is a division in poetry shown by a line break. In poetry, a stanza is the equivalent of a paragraph, only a stanza is made up of lines of poetry. In the poem below, each stanza is made up of four lines.

example:

Yankee Doodle went to town
A-riding on a pony
Stuck a feather in his hat
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up

Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp
Along with Captain Gooding
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy

A **blank verse** poem is written in iambic pentameter. That means each line has ten syllables. The syllables have a pattern of unstressed syllable, stressed syllable, unstressed syllable, stressed syllable, and so on. The lines do not have an end rhyme scheme.

example:

But do not let us quarrel anymore,
No, my Lucrezia; bear with me for once:
Sit down and all shall happen as you wish.
You turn your face, but does it bring your heart?

Robert Browning

A **couplet** is a pair of lines that usually rhyme. Couplets can appear in other poetry forms, such as sonnets.

example:

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright! It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
<i>William Shakespeare</i>

An **elegy** is traditionally written in response to the death of a person or group. In content, it is similar to an epitaph (written on a tombstone) or a eulogy (written using prose). An elegy focuses on the loss or grief itself.

example:

Too proud to die; broken and blind he died The darkest way, and did not turn away, A cold kind man brave in his narrow pride
On that darkest day, Oh, forever may He lie lightly, at last, on the last, crossed Hill, under the grass, in love, and there grow
<i>Dylan Thomas</i>

An **epic** poem is a long poem narrating the heroic exploits of an individual in a way central to the beliefs and culture of the society. Typical elements include fabulous adventures, superhuman deeds, majestic language, and a mythical setting.

examples:

<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer
<i>Beowulf</i>

Unlike ballads and epic poetry, **lyric** poetry does not attempt to tell a story. It is of a more personal nature. Rather than portraying characters and actions, the lyric poet addresses the reader directly, portraying the speaker's feelings, states of mind, and perceptions. Lyric poetry often is written with a specific rhyme scheme and meter.

examples:

"Daffodils" by William Wordsworth
"I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman

A **haiku** (pronounced HIGH-koo) is a Japanese form of poetry, also known as hokku. It consists of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.

example:

Springtime in the woods (<i>five syllables</i>)
A little white snake went in (<i>seven syllables</i>)
The pond very fast. (<i>five syllables</i>)

Narrative poems are poems that tell a story. They have characters and plot just like a story. Sometimes they have dialogue, themes, and conflicts. Narrative poems can sometimes be categorized as another form, such as ballads or epics.

examples:

<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Geoffrey Chaucer

"The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

An **ode** is a poem that focuses on one subject and finds an original way to express what is good and unique about it. The structure of odes has changed over the last 100 years, but traditional odes follow a rhyme scheme of ABABCDECDE for each stanza.

examples:

"Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats

"Ode to the Confederate Dead" by Allen Tate

Free verse is poetry written without regard to form, rhyme, rhythm, meter, or line breaks. A poem written in free verse doesn't have a clear traditional form.

examples:

"Oh Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman

"To a Stranger" by Walt Whitman

A **sonnet** is a form of poetry written in fourteen lines and ending in a couplet. Sonnets also have a specific rhythm the poet must follow. They are usually written in iambic pentameter.

example:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou growest;
So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Rhyme Scheme

Rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhyme in a poem. To find a poem's rhyme scheme, look at the last word of each line. If there is a rhyme scheme, some of the last words will rhyme with each other. Remember that not all poems have a rhyme scheme.

You can describe rhyme scheme in two ways. You can assign a letter to the sound of each line's last word. You can also just describe where the rhyming words are. Look at the examples below.

AABB

Every two lines rhyme.

Unreal
by C. Vesely
I thought I had found THE ONE (A)
He eclipsed the stars, moon, and sun (A)
Yet, with each passing day (B)
The blue skies turned a little more gray. (B)

In this poem, the letter A represents the "un" sound. The letter B represents the "ay" sound. That's why you call this rhyme scheme AABB.

ABCB

The second and fourth line of each stanza rhyme.

A Sunday Morning
by C. Vesely
I sat and ate blueberries from a plastic carton (A)

A Sunday Morning

My nephew Tristan joined me (B)

We ate blueberries and read the paper together (C)

We laughed because we were happy. (B)

ABAB

Every other line rhymes.

Happiness

by C. Vesely

I looked for you in golden treasure (A)

You were not there (B)

I looked for you in passing pleasure (A)

I couldn't find you anywhere. (B)

No Rhyme

The author uses unrhyming verse.

Take and Give
by C. Vesely
Take comfort from the soft sky
Take joy from the bird's flight
Take refreshment from the flowing stream
And give thanks.

Poetry: Meter

*In poetry, **meter** is the regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that make up a line of poetry. Meter gives rhythm and regularity to poetry.*

Most classic Western poems use a poetic meter that is measured in **feet**. Each **foot** is a specific sequence of syllable type, such as unstressed/stressed.

For example, one of the most common types of meter used in poetry is **iambic pentameter**. In this meter, each line consists of 5 iambic feet. Each iamb is made up of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed one: da-DUM.

The rhythm of a poem with five iambic feet in a row is shown below:

da-DUM	da-DUM	da-DUM	da-DUM	da-DUM
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

See if you can determine the meter of these lines from a poem:

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
 Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
 Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
 And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

—from Sonnet XVIII, by William Shakespeare

Sound in Poetry

A poem is a type of writing designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way. Poems are characterized by literary techniques such as rhyme and sounds.

Slant rhyme is also called half rhyme, imperfect rhyme, near rhyme, oblique rhyme, and off rhyme. It is a rhyme in which either the vowels or the consonants of stressed syllables are identical.

examples:

eyes, light
years, yours

Internal rhyme is a rhyme that occurs within a line of verse.

example:

In the grey grains of sand The dark veins of dropping rain

Consonance is the repetition of consonants or of a consonant pattern, especially at the ends of words.

examples:

blank, blink

strong, string

Assonance is also called vowel rhyme. It is a rhyme in which the same vowel sounds are used with different consonants in the stressed syllables of the rhyming words.

example:

penitent, reticence

End rhyme is a rhyme that occurs in the last syllables of verses.

example:

On the train She left again And I remain In the rain!
--

Alliteration is the repetition of the same sounds or of the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables.

example:

Kara cried her karaoke tears.
She could not mask her fake fears.

Onomatopoeia is the use of words such as "buzz" or "moo" that imitate the sounds associated with the objects to which they refer.

example:

The buzz of the bees filled the air.

Personification is a figure of speech in which things are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form.

example:

a smiling moon

Drama

Dramatic literature can be one of the most exciting parts of your studies of English. Drama is not only a genre favored by important writers like William Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde, but it is also simply fun to read aloud or perform for an audience.

Here are some important words you should know when studying dramatic literature:

Comedy

Comedy refers to any play which consistently features humor and light-hearted events.

Tragedy

A tragedy deals with humans as victims of destiny, character flaw, moral weakness, or social pressure.

Cast

A play will list the names of the characters needed. Some lists will even give a little description of each role, such as who the character is or what he or she is wearing. The list of characters, or "cast," is shown at the top of the play.

Dialogue

Dialogue is the words spoken by characters in a play.

Soliloquy

Soliloquy is narrative spoken by a single actor in which his or her thoughts are revealed to the audience. It can be written as if the actor is speaking to himself or herself. Usually, the actor is alone on stage, or the other performers are temporarily not engaged in the play.

Dramatic Monologue

Similar to soliloquy, a dramatic monologue is a long speech by a single actor. The actor can either be alone on stage or interacting with other performers.

Character Foil

A character foil is a character whose traits are in direct contrast to those of the principal character. The foil therefore highlights the traits of the protagonist.

Scene Design

Scene design is the creative process of developing and executing aesthetic or functional designs in a production, such as costumes, lighting, sets, and makeup.

Aside

The term refers to a speech or comment made by an actor directly to the audience about the action of the play or another character. The audience is to understand that this comment is not heard or noticed by the other characters in the play.

Stage Directions

Stage directions tell actors how to move and speak. Most stage directions are in parentheses () or in *italics*. They can also tell you where the play is taking place or give information about how to make the stage look to set the scene.

Prop

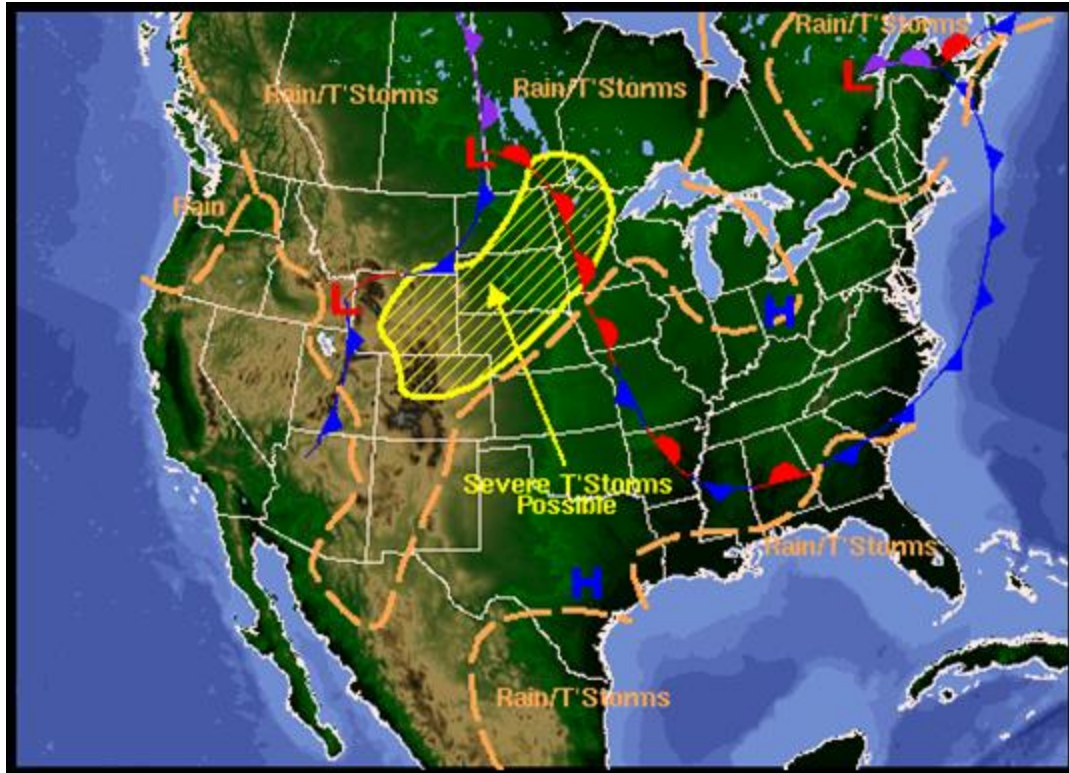
A prop is an article or object that appears on the stage during a play. The word "prop" comes from the term "theatrical property." Props in the play *Romeo and Juliet* include the swords used in the fight scenes.

Graphics

Graphics are figures that give information through pictures and shapes. Learn about different types of graphics below.

Weather Map

A weather map uses colors and symbols to show weather conditions across an area. Look for a key to help you understand what the colors and symbols mean. This example shows high and low pressure systems across the United States and Canada. It also shows various cold fronts, warm fronts, and thunderstorm activity.



Road Map

A road map is published primarily to assist travelers in moving from one place to another. Some road maps show only interstate highways, while others show a detailed network of roads, including the back roads.

Kentucky Interstates



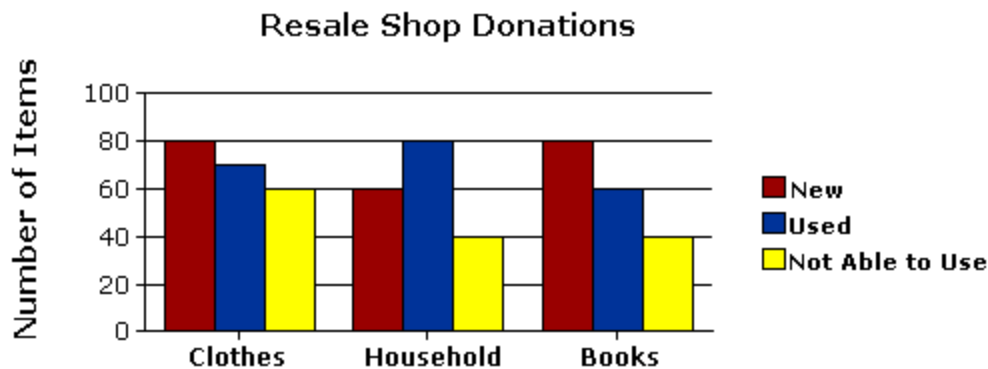
Bar Graph

A bar graph is useful for representing the trends of a set of data. The different bar colors help separate the data.

The chart below shows data regarding the three main types of donations a charitable resale shop received.

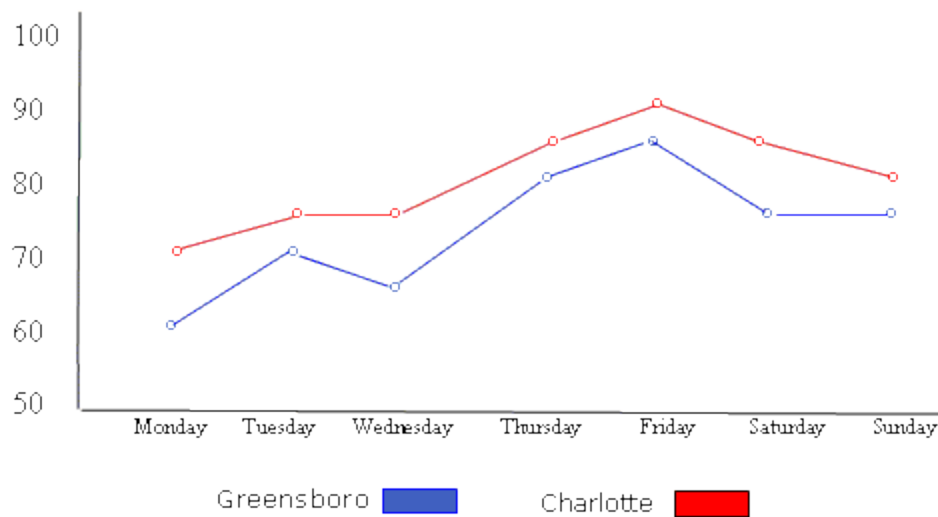
	New	Used	Unable to Use
Clothes	80	70	60
Household	60	80	40
Books	80	60	40

This bar graph of the data above helps the reader get a clearer picture of the donations:



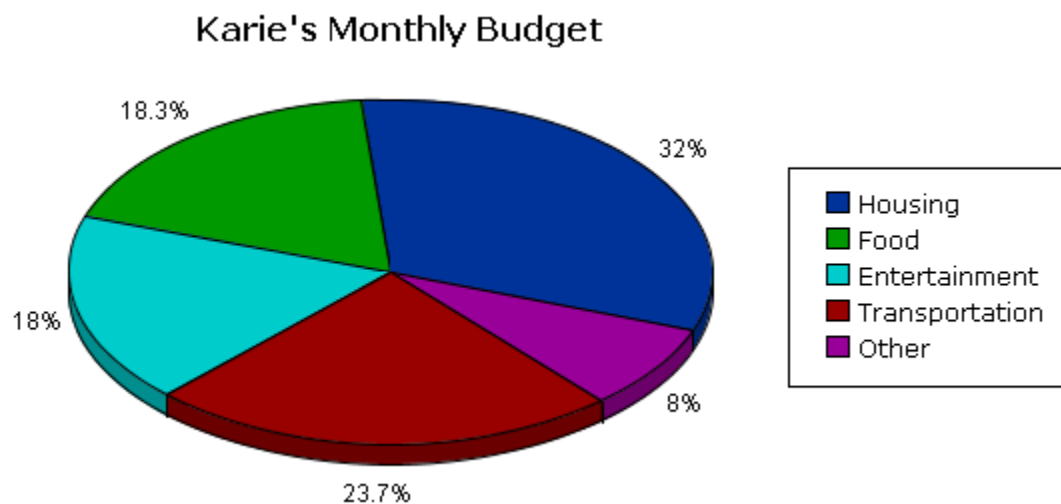
Line Graph

A line graph is good for making comparisons in data, such as the temperature differences, or for showing growth trends, such as improvement in math scores over the course of a year.



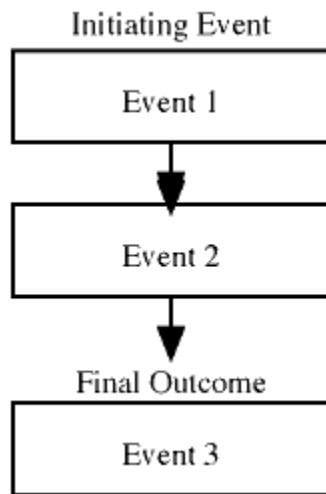
Pie Chart

A pie chart shows how the relative sizes of the parts compare to each other and to the whole. The pie chart is the type of graph most commonly used for displaying percentages.



Flow Chart

A flowchart is used to show the steps of a process or event in order.



Table

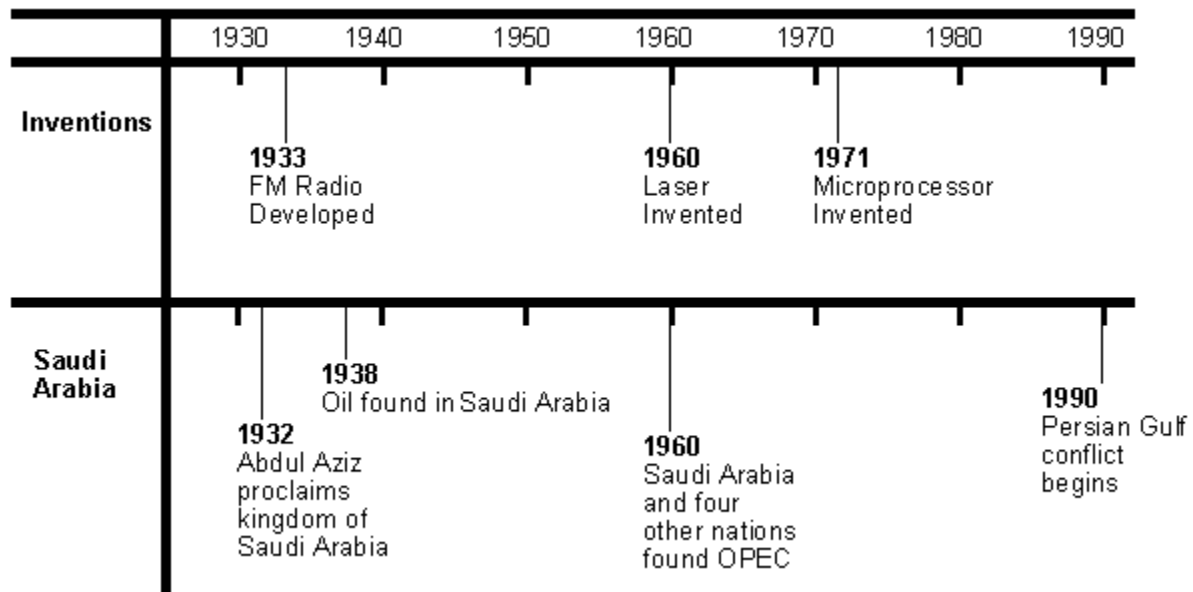
A table is one way to organize information in boxes using rows and columns. The first column is the main subject of the table. The other columns give more information about the subject in the first column. Each row has all the information for one subject.

Number below poverty level (1,000)				
	Individuals		Families	
State	2000	2005	2000	2005
Alabama	672	754	146	168
Alaska	55	71	11	13

Arizona	780	824	150	159
Arkansas	439	462	96	100
California	4,520	4,673	832	850

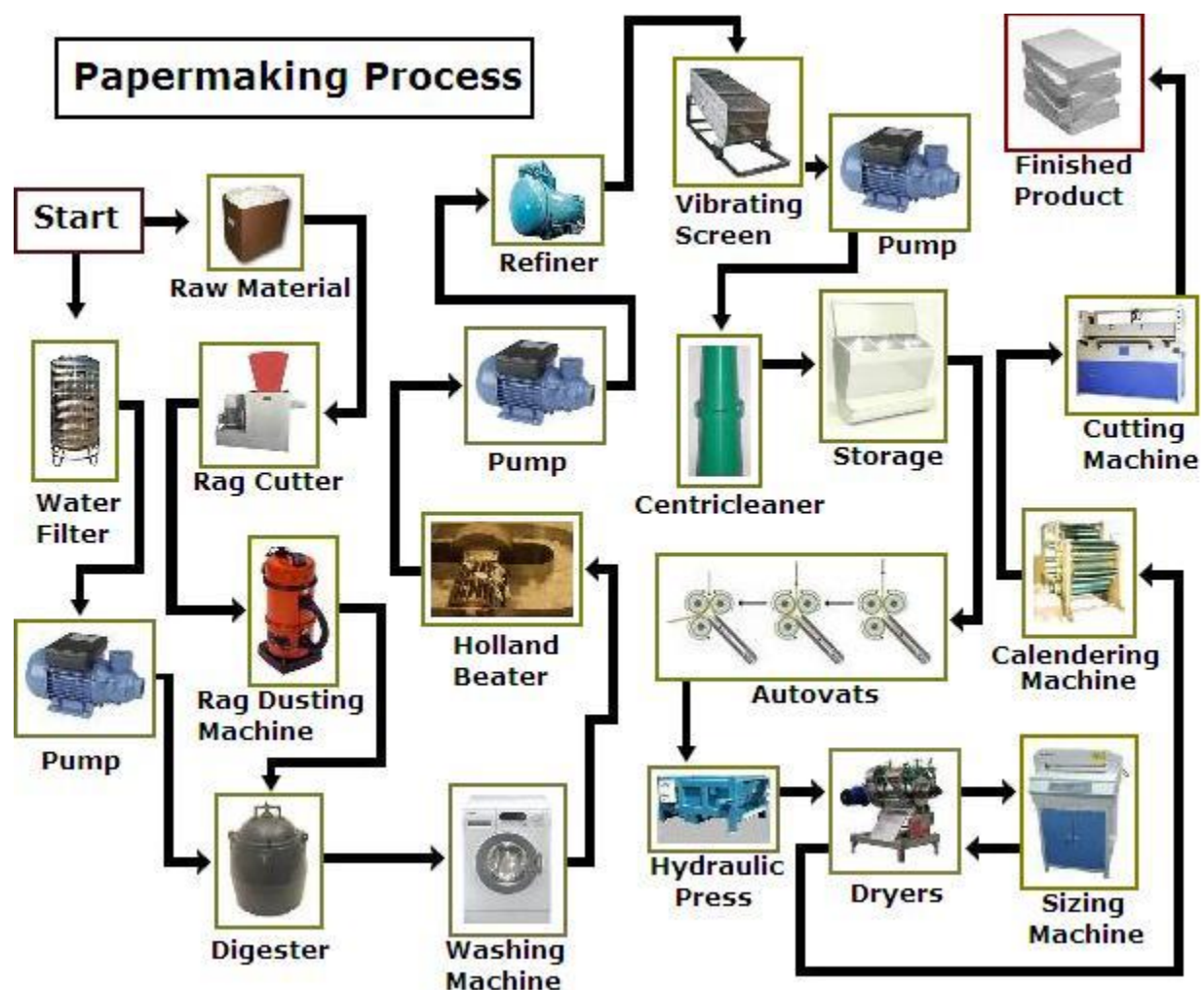
Timeline

One common way of putting events in chronological order is by creating a timeline. A timeline is read from left to right or from top to bottom and is marked by years, decades, or centuries.



Diagram

A diagram shows the steps in a process with words and pictures. The process can be how to make a product or how a service is done. Below is a diagram showing the process for making paper.



Headings

You're probably most familiar with the type of heading you use on your assignments. Those include your name, the date, and probably class information. In literature, headings are also used to give readers information.

Headings are titles and subtitles that are used to divide information into sections so that it will be easier to find. These organizational tools give readers a hint of what information can be found in each section. Instead of having to read all of the information to find what they are looking for, readers can use the heading to figure out which section to look in.

Look at this example of a passage with headings (indicated by the blue arrow) and subheadings (indicated by the yellow arrows).

▶ **What Is Autobiographical Writing?**

Autobiographical writing tells the story of a writer's life in his or her own words.

➡ **Types of Autobiographical Writing**

➡ **Memoirs**

A **memoir** is a writer's reflection on an important person or event from his or her life. This kind of literature usually focuses on a specific time period.

➡ Anecdotes

An **anecdote** is a brief, true, and usually humorous story that contains a conclusion.

➡ Personal Narratives

A **personal narrative** is a story that reveals a writer's opinions, feelings, and insights about an experience.

Author Bias

***Bias** is a term that is used to describe a particular attitude or slant authors take toward a subject by not accurately covering both sides of the issue. Having a preference for something is normal, and, as such, bias can be conscious or unconscious.*

Writers often have strong feelings about the subjects they write about. These feelings can be revealed through their words. A writer's bias can be positive or negative. Here is an example of bias in a hotel review.



The Rodham Hotel is a Dump!

We stayed at the Rodham Hotel on Grand Cayman Island during our vacation. From the very beginning, I was a little worried about our choice to stay there. Our family normally stays at the Hotel Roosevelt. Whenever we stay there, we always get great service. The staff is so friendly and helpful. The free breakfast the hotel provides each morning is delicious, and the shuttle service it supplies is very convenient. The Hotel Roosevelt certainly leaves its guests with high expectations for their hotel stays. Not surprisingly, the Rodham Hotel was unable to meet our standards. I will never stay there again.

Sincerely,
June Wilson

The author's bias against the Rodham Hotel is apparent when she begins comparing it to the Hotel Roosevelt. In fact, she never states what was wrong with the Rodham Hotel. She only states what was right with the Hotel Roosevelt. This is one example of a writer having a negative bias toward something.

Things to Consider

When you are reading, make sure you look out for bias in the writer's words. There are a few things you should always consider.

The writer's background: Who is the writer? Is there something in his or her background that might contribute to a bias towards certain subjects? Is there information present in the writing that reveals this bias?

The writer's motivation: Ask yourself why this piece of writing was written. What was the writer's motivation? Is he or she trying to influence you to buy something or convince you to support a certain cause?

The bigger picture: A very important question to ask yourself before you make up your mind about an issue is whether or not the writer is telling the whole story. Gather all the information you can on both sides of the issue before you make a decision.

Read the following passage.

Benefits of Volunteering



The best thing I could have ever done was become a volunteer at Marsh Evans Retirement Center. The residents at Marsh have brought so much joy and wisdom to my life. Their candor and wit have encouraged me to be more open with people in my everyday life. The information I have garnered from my conversations with them is invaluable. There are retired doctors, airplane pilots, and homemakers living at Marsh. I now have a variety of information on everything from medical diagnosis to housekeeping. Everyone should have the privilege of adopting a grandparent. As far as I am concerned, no other volunteer opportunity will impact you more than this one.

Question: Does the writer have any bias present in this passage? Is the bias positive or negative?

Propaganda Techniques

Name calling: This technique consists of attaching a negative label to a person or a thing. People engage in this type of behavior when they are trying to avoid supporting their own opinion with facts. Rather than explain what they believe in, they prefer to try to tear their opponent down.

Glittering Generalities: This technique uses important-sounding "glad words" that have little or no real meaning. These words are used in general statements that cannot be proved or disproved. Words like "good," "honest," "fair," and "best" are examples of "glad" words.

Transfer: In this technique, an attempt is made to transfer the prestige of a positive symbol to a person or an idea. For example, using the American flag as a backdrop for a political event makes the implication that the event is patriotic in the best interest of the U.S.

False Analogy: In this technique, two things that may or may not really be similar are portrayed as being similar. When examining the comparison, you must ask yourself how similar the items are. In most false analogies, there is simply not enough evidence available to support the comparison.

Testimonial: This technique is easy to understand. It is when "big name" personalities are used to endorse a product. Whenever you see someone famous endorsing a product, ask yourself how much that person knows about the product, and what he or she stands to gain by promoting it.

Plain Folks: This technique uses a folksy approach to convince us to support someone or something. These ads depict people with ordinary looks doing ordinary activities.

Card Stacking: This term comes from stacking a deck of cards in your favor. Card stacking is used to slant a message. Key words or unfavorable statistics may be omitted in an ad or commercial, leading to a series of half-truths. Keep in mind that an advertiser is under no obligation "to give the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

Bandwagon: The "bandwagon" approach encourages you to think that because everyone else is doing something, you should do it too, or you'll be left out. The technique embodies a "keeping up with the Joneses" philosophy.

Either/or fallacy: This technique is also called "black-and-white thinking" because only two choices are given. You are either for something or against it; there is no middle ground or shades of gray. It is used to polarize issues, and negates all attempts to find a common ground.

Faulty Cause and Effect: This technique suggests that because B follows A, A must cause B. Remember, just because two events or two sets of data are related does not necessarily mean that one caused the other to happen. It is important to evaluate data carefully before jumping to a wrong conclusion.